TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Friday the 18th January, 1924.

(*OFFICIAL REPORT.*)

The Council re-assembled in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall at Eleven thirty-eight of the Clock with the President in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Order made by the President under Standing Order No. 12—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table 15 minutes before the President takes his seat.

(2) Questions shall be put and answered in the following manner :—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in serial order, specify the serial number of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place, if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Arrangement of Graduate Teachers in the Civil List.

137. MR. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the principle followed in ranking second grade graduate teachers in the *Civil List* ; and

(*b*) whether this rank is taken into consideration in promoting them to the higher grade?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) :

(*a*) The rank has been fixed according to the date of confirmation in the *cadre* of the provincial staff of male teachers.

(*b*) Rank is also considered.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*) : Will the Government be pleased to state what they mean by the term 'provincial staff'?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : The provincial staff consists of graduate teachers in the English and Vernacular School Departments.

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[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): May I know whether there is any other kind of staff of male teachers?

PRESIDENT: There are non-graduate male teachers.

Poppy Cultivation in Travancore.

138. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether the soil of Travancore is congenial to the cultivation of the poppy plant?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The Director of Agriculture has reported that poppy can be grown in Travancore.

Rules re. Government Contracts.

139. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have framed any rules in regard to Government contracts?

(*b*) Are the Government aware that certain officers sometimes refuse to accept the lowest tenders even when proper security is forthcoming?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they will associate non-officials with the work of accepting or rejecting tenders?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) It is not possible to answer this question fully in the absence of information as to the kind of contracts referred to. There are rules governing contracts relating to certain departments.

(*b*) The lowest tenders are sometimes not accepted. Security is not the only consideration in the acceptance of tenders.

(*c*) The answer is in the negative.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know what the 'considerations' which weigh with the Government in the acceptance of tenders are?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Besides what is mentioned in the answer to the interpellation?

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Yes. I find that sometimes the lowest tenders are not accepted. So I put the question.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The contractor's solvency, his experience in carrying out similar contracts, his ability to carry out the contract within a stipulated time—these are some of the considerations.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether there are any rules governing the contracts relating to the Excise Department?

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